

Lineback's New Mexico Type II Interagency Incident Management Team

OJO FELIZ FIRE Rainsville, NM April 15, 2005

Acres: approximately 16,000

Containment: 40 % Fire Personnel: 400

Structures Lost: 1 Adobe Structure and 4 Outbuildings

Communities Threatened: Los Hueros and numerous ranches in the area.

Evacuation Shelters: Established as Need Arises

State Parks Closed: Coyote Creek State Park and Morphy Lake State Park as a precautionary

measure.

Highways Closed: Highway 442 will be opened at 12:00pm today to all traffic

Cause of Fire: Human

Fire Update: Conditions Worsen as Fire Progress Improves

The New Mexico Type 2 Incident Management Team continues to manage the Ojo Feliz Fire which continues to be an active fire in North-Central New Mexico. According to Bob Lineback, Incident Commander, this progress so far is due to the great cooperation among local, state and federal agencies with the extraordinary cooperation of local residents. They also received help Friday from lighter winds and some cloud cover.

Highway 442 will be reopened to all traffic at noon today and the Ojo Feliz evacuation order has been lifted. We want to remind residents returning to this area that they should use only main roads and stay off roads leading into the active fire area. There may be blowing ash along highway 442; burned out stump holes may be a hazard in the area. Please use caution when driving or walking in or around any of the burned areas. Residents of Los Hueros are still under an evacuation order and are asked not to return to their homes until conditions are deemed safe.

Firefighters battled strong winds over night and had a flare-up in the Los Hueros area. They expect these trying conditions to continue throughout the day due to high winds with gust to 45 mph. A Red Flag Warning has been issued throughout the fire area. A Red Flag Warning means conditions are such that gusting winds and temperatures will increase while humidity levels decrease during the day.

As always, Firefighter and Public safety are the number one concern of the New Mexico Type 2 Incident Management Team. For additional information please contact Fire Information at their new number: 505.387.9120 or check the website at: www.nmimt.com/assignment.htm